



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
LANSING



REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

RESUBMITTED: June 14, 2004
July 12, 2004

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission:

SUBJECT: Supplemental Deer Feeding in the Upper Peninsula

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Commission to issue orders to manage the feeding of deer and elk.

Discussion and Background:

In February 2003 the Natural Resources Commission issued an interim order for supplemental feeding of deer in Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Alger, Luce, and those portions of Marquette and Chippewa counties north of the T43N-T44N boundary line. As requested by the Natural Resources Commission, this Order authorizes supplemental feeding of deer through May 15, 2006.

Supplemental feeding of deer in Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Alger, Luce, and those portions of Marquette and Chippewa counties north of the T43N-T44N boundary line will be allowed by permit from the Monday following January 1 and shall not extend beyond May 15. Permits will be issued by the Department of Natural Resources so long as the applicant has permission from the landowner or the land administrator; the feed is placed away from livestock, specific agricultural crops, and at least ¼ mile from paved public roads. Feed is limited to grains or pelletized food that is scattered or dispersed on the ground. Permittees are required to report to the Department on their feeding activities by May 30.

Individuals or groups who feed deer under permit will assist the Department with the collection of deer tissue samples for disease surveillance efforts.

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration at the July, 2004 meeting of the Natural Resource Commission. This item appeared in the July 2004, Calendar and is eligible for approval on August 12, 2004. We are now recommending that it be acted upon at this meeting.

William E. Moritz, Acting Chief
Wildlife Division

Alan Marble, Acting Chief
Law Enforcement Division

George E. Burgoyne
Resource Management Deputy

Dennis Fedewa
Chief Deputy

I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 14 of 2004

Under the authority of sections 40111a and 40113a, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40111a and 324.40113a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Natural Resources Commission ordered that effective September 1, 2004 and remaining effective until May 31, 2006, the following section of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.100c Supplemental feeding of deer, exception to section 3.100a, counties listed, conditions.

Sec. 3.100c. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3.100a regarding the supplemental feeding of deer, a person may engage in the supplemental feeding of deer in Ontonagon, Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Alger, Luce, and those portions of Marquette and Chippewa counties north of the T43N-T44N boundary line if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) Prior to placing any feed, the person first acquires permission of the respective public land administrator and private property owner and a supplemental deer feeding permit issued by a department wildlife biologist. A person engaged in supplemental deer feeding shall possess a copy of the supplemental deer feeding permit and shall produce the permit upon the request of a conservation officer.

(b) The supplemental deer feeding is conducted in compliance with all of the following criteria:

(i) The placement of feed shall not begin prior to the Monday following January 1 and shall not extend beyond May 15 unless otherwise specified in the supplemental deer feeding permit.

(ii) All feed shall be placed $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or more from the nearest paved public highway unless otherwise specified in the supplemental deer feeding permit.

(iii) All feed shall be placed at least 1 mile from cattle, goats, sheep, new world camelids, bison, swine, horses, or captive cervidae unless otherwise specified in the supplemental deer feeding permit.

(iv) All feed shall be placed at least 1 mile from wheat fields, potato fields, commercial fruit orchards, commercial plantings of nursery stock or Christmas trees, unless otherwise specified in the supplemental deer feeding permit.

(v) The feed shall consist solely of grains and pelletized food materials containing no animal protein which is scattered or dispersed directly upon the ground to a depth which shall not exceed 3 inches.

(c) A person issued a supplemental deer feeding permit shall agree to assist the department in the collection of deer tissue samples for disease surveillance.

(d) A person issued a supplemental deer feeding permit shall report by May 30 the quantity and type of feed used, dates and duration of feeding, and other information as may be specified in the supplemental feeding permit. The department shall report to the commission the number of permits issued, quantity of feed used, and other relevant supplemental deer feeding information.

(e) Failure to comply with all provisions of a supplemental deer feeding permit shall make the permittee ineligible for any future supplemental deer feeding permits.

Issued this 12th day of August, 2004.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission